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THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2015

Lessons in harmony

A piano once stored in a random corner at Lakeshore Catholic High School, it is now being used to marry art and technology
Page 8

New career in focus

Christopher Darton has finished producing his first feature film, a documentary on the Kendall Wall Band.
Page 3

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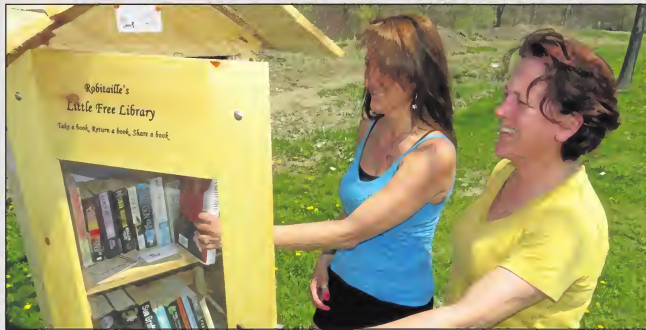
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Neighbourhood book buddies



GREG FURMINGER/
POSTMEDIA
NETWORK
Michelle Della Ventura, left, and her sister Annette Robitaille stock up the Little Free Library they had installed in Wainfleet's Oakwood Cemetery in memory of their mother. The growing community trend invites people to take a book, return a book and share a book. See story on page 2.

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UPFRONT

■ **LITTLE FREE LIBRARY:** Wainfleet sisters pay tribute to mom

Borrowing books at the side of the road

GREG FURMINGER
Postmedia Network

They're a couple of Wainfleet sisters, but you can call them your book buddies, too. Michelle Della Ventura and Annette Robitaille have introduced two Little Free Library stands to their community in hopes of inspiring others to read and share a love of the written word.

For anyone unfamiliar with Little Free Libraries, they're a "take a book, return a book" gathering place where neighbours share their favourite literature and stories, according to the organization's website littlefreelibrary.org.

Says Della Ventura, "It's just like a swap-out."

Usually cute little book kiosks fashioned from repurposed materials or furnishings, they're gaining popularity.

Della Ventura built one for her sister to place out front of her Lakeshore Rd. home in Burnaby at Christmastime, and made a matching second one that was recently installed at Oakwood Cemetery, further east along the Lake Erie shoreline, for Mother's Day.

The latter is in memory of the sisters' mom, Lena Robitaille, who died five years ago from cancer. The words "Forever with the angels, always in our hearts," accompanies a photo of Lena on the see-through door of the little library.

"Mom would love it," says Della Ventura.

"My mom was an avid reader. She really liked books," she added, while noting her mom often would donate old reads to Fort Colborne Public Library.

"We're eventually going to put in a bench so that people can sit and read if they want to," said Robitaille.

The sisters say the township

was very supportive of their community kindness.

Robitaille said the Wainfleet book depots should appeal to vacationing cottagers and beachgoers. People have even taken to sharing CDs at her little library, just east of Burnaby Rd.

"I think at first people were a little leery about it," she said of the whole gesture of lending books roadside.

Yet the library says right on it: "Take a book, return a book, share a book."

The sisters' little libraries have been registered with Little Free Library to be assigned charter numbers and will be mapped so they can be found online.

As of January, there were more than 25,000 registered Little Free Libraries in all 50 U.S. states and more than 70 countries.

St. Catharines and Grimsby had their first registered ones in 2013.

Welland got its first Little Free Library recently, courtesy of the Green family at the corner of Churchill Ave. and Bishop Rd. The colourful station is fashioned from three old metal drawers found, appropriately enough, at the side of the road.

A young mom, Lisa Green said establishing a Little Free Library was on her "bucket list" of things to do.

"I just thought it was a cool idea," said Green, who like the Wainfleet sisters hopes it inspires others to follow suit.

Since starting her library, Green's children quickly made new neighbourhood friends as a result. She has also taken to posting community events on the side of the colourful station that features children's chapter books and something for older readers, as well.

greg.furminger@postmedia.ca
Twitter: @Greg4TheLib



Shown is the Green family's Little Free Library on Churchill Ave. and Bishop Rd. in Welland, the first such lending nook in the Rose City.

GREG FURMINGER/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

LOCAL NEWS

■ **DOCUMENTARY:** Out of work from Fort Erie slots, man takes time off to live dream

Port Colborne man loses job, makes his first film

FRANKI IKEMAN
Postmedia Network

At age 47, Christopher Darton was let go from a secure, good-paying job that he enjoyed when Slots at Fort Erie Race Track suddenly closed down.

He had no idea at that time that the next two years of his life would lead him to the near-release of his first finished film.

The Way We Was: The Story of the Kendall Wall Band is a full-length documentary about a Toronto house band central in the blues community in the 1980s.

Darton was born in Fort Erie to young parents who passed along to him a love of music. He describes himself as having been a crazy teenager with a group of friends that would just go out and make movies.

"We were never bad kids, just very creative," he says.

The Niagara College film graduate, now living in Port Colborne, has always known this was his path. He's passionate about music, but says he never had the talent to make it in the business.

"For me, hanging around musicians and talking about music is the next best thing," Darton says.

He liked his job at the slots, but said it was never something he was passionate about. He always wanted to make films, but needed the security of a steady job.

"It's just never quite happened for me, but it never stopped me from doing it."

Within about a week of losing his job at the slots, Darton received an e-mail from jazz musician Gary Kendall. A press-release type e-mail sent to all of Kendall's media and music contacts about the revival of the Kendall Wall Band recording — almost 25 years after it was originally recorded.

Kendall says he got a few supportive responses back from people, but nothing concrete like the response he got from Darton.

Darton says that as soon as he saw the e-mail from Kendall, he responded with,



FRANKI IKEMAN/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Christopher Darton in the basement of his Port Colborne home. Darton has finished producing his first feature film, a documentary on the Kendall Wall Band, a blues band from Toronto.

"This is a great story. When do we start shooting?"

Just like that, what originally was intended to be a short video about the revival of a band's album turned into a feature film about this band's place in a period of time.

The duo both said working together was a really good experience.

"He and I get along very

well because he's honest and straightforward and I like working with people like that," says Kendall.

Having this period in his life preserved this way, by someone who gets it is a pretty big deal to him, Kendall says. Darton is a talented guy in his field and that people need to know who he is.

Through creating this film, Darton has had the opportu-

nity to live his dream, and to meet and build connections with people he has looked up to in the industry.

He is still job-hunting, but says he's happy staying at home with his dogs and spending time with his family and doing what he loves when he has the opportunity.

Darton and Kendall completed the film in the spring

of 2014. Through a mutual contact in the industry, the pair got hooked up with eOne, which was willing to distribute the film.

Since that time, Darton has been trying to pull together the funds to make the film releasable. He says the film is collecting dust because of the cost of clearing the music copyright, an estimated \$40,000 or more.

Darton has created a Kickstarter campaign to see if he can get the final touches put on the project, including the copyright, a final colour-correction and a final audio mix.

To learn more about *The Way We Was: The Story of the Kendall Wall Band*, visit www.kickstarter.com/projects/110996957/the-way-we-was-the-story-of-the-kendall-wall-band.

■ I'VE BEEN THINKING

I've been thinking about the new sex-ed curriculum

REV. DR. STEVEN DAVIS
Central United Church, Port Colborne

Recently, the Ontario government introduced a new curriculum which includes revised sex education teaching. It replaces a curriculum that virtually everyone has come out of, but that, but has become a source of a great deal of controversy.

I've watched the debate with some interest. Most of the opposition has come from what would be called the conservative religious movement — and if the new curriculum has accomplished nothing else, it has given conservative Christians and conservative Muslims a point of connection, which has some value I suppose. But what bothers me — based on reports I've seen in the news media, signs I've seen held aloft at protests and postings I've seen made on various social media sites — is that so much of the opposition to the new curriculum seems based on misunderstanding, misinformation or downright deceit. There seems to be an "ends justifies the means" approach being taken. "I'll say anything — no matter how much it stretches the truth — to derail this." From a Christian perspective that bothers me. Honesty and truth should be at the heart of what people of faith stand for. That has been discarded by too many people in this debate.

I admit that I have mixed feelings about the curriculum. Most of the content I have no problem with, but I concede that it's imper-

fect and needs some tweaking. There are some legitimate concerns being raised about the age appropriateness of certain topics that are introduced in certain grades — although I'm not sure I understand the concern about teaching young children the proper names for body parts. (Should schools also dispense with singing "head and shoulders, knees and toes"? But that really is tweaking. It doesn't require throwing the whole thing out, nor does it really seem to justify the rabid anti-curriculum protests that have been spawned. Make no mistake — I support people's right to protest, and I support people using their democratic right to try to get the government to change course. But such attempts should be based on honesty — on serious critical evaluation of the curriculum, not on knee jerk reactions based on questionable interpretations.

I've read the curriculum, and as I said I've seen the basis of at least some of the protests. Here are just a few observations of where the protests seem unfounded:

Opponents of the curriculum have claimed that it encourages children to consent to sex. It doesn't. It teaches the concept of consent, so that they will know that it's wrong for anyone to touch them sexually without their consent, even if the person is in a position of authority: pastor, priest, teacher, police officer, parent — anyone else. If you don't give consent to be touched, then you shouldn't be touched. I think children should be taught

this from a very young age.

Opponents of the curriculum have claimed that it teaches and encourages masturbation. It doesn't. It merely points out that masturbation is normal activity.

Opponents of the curriculum have claimed that the new curriculum encourages anal intercourse. It doesn't. It includes anal intercourse in a section dealing with STDs and it actually points out that abstention from all sexual contact is the only way to avoid STDs. It's mentioned, I assume, because I have read over the years that some teenagers engage in oral and anal intercourse in order to avoid pregnancy, but not thinking of the risk of STDs.

Opponents of the curriculum claim that it "promotes" or offers graphic information about homosexuality. In fact, it teaches respect for those who come from same sex families or who question their own sexual orientation. I should think that being respectful of those who are different is in keeping with the example of Christ.

Opponents of the curriculum claim that it was designed by a pedophile. While Ben Levin was deputy minister of education for part of the time that the curriculum was under development (and he left office in 2009, before it was completed), the reality is that the deputy minister would not be directly involved in such work. He wasn't sitting at his desk writing the curriculum. There were literally thousands of people involved in the work. Levin would have been one very

minor voice with lots of eyes looking at it as it was developed.

Opponents of the curriculum claim that parents were given no input into the development of the curriculum. In fact, each school in Ontario has a school parent council, and every school parent council was encouraged to offer input.

Opponents of the new curriculum claim that it takes away the right of parents to be the ones who teach their children about sex. In fact, parents have the right to opt their children out if they so desire. And the curriculum encourages children to seek out guidance from parents, doctors, religious leaders, etc.

In general, there's all sorts of misinformation about the ages at which concepts will be introduced, and there's the continuing barely disguised smear about "Ontario's lesbian premier" — which is trying to fear-monger among the religious right: "the gays are coming to get your kids." Interesting that in the previous dispute and protests over the curriculum, when Dalton McGuinty was premier, no one complained about "Ontario's straight premier."

As I said, I fully support the right of parents or anyone else to protest the new curriculum, and there are aspects of it that could be improved and should be tweaked. But continuing to base the protests on groundless accusations serves no productive purpose, and — speaking from a Christian perspective — gives no honour or glory to Christ.

SKIP GILLHAM
For Postmedia Network

Erviken was a Norwegian freighter that had been launched at Fredrikstad, Norway, on Oct. 7, 1950, and completed before the end of the year.

It kept busy on saltwater routes but, when the St. Lawrence Seaway opened in 1959, the 118.3-metre-long, by-17.5-metre-wide carrier could now come to the Great Lakes.

The vessel made a single voyage inland in 1959 and returned to her shores during the next three years making a total of seven seaway transits to the end of 1962.

Sold and renamed *Gracia* in 1963, it operated under the flag of Finland until becoming *Pennycuik*, Liberian registry, in 1967. The final name of *Kiki* was applied in 1970 when the ship joined the Kiki Shipping Co. Ltd. of Cyprus in 1970.

What proved to be the final voyage of the then-22-year-old carrier began by loading



Erviken is shown in this undated photo on Superior, Wisc., courtesy of the Matt Miner Collection.

coke at Gdynia, Poland, early in 1971. The crew set out for Dugi Rat, Yugoslavia, but they never arrived.

In the early hours of Feb. 3, 1971, the former seaway visitor simply disappeared. It was believed to have gone down in the

western Mediterranean shortly after passing through the Straits of Gibraltar. All 27 sailors on board were lost without a trace.

SUPPLIER PHOTO

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IN BRIEF

Wellender charged with shed arson

A 51-year-old Welland man is charged with arson following a small shed fire Sunday morning. Welland firefighters and Niagara police responded to

the Lincoln St. fire, at the corner of Garner Ave., at about 7:30 a.m. The fire was quickly extinguished with minimal damage.

Police said the fire was deliberately set, and with the help of witnesses a suspect was arrested.

Charged with arson, enter and commit break is Richard Andonian.

Phoney money passed in St. Catharines

For the second time this spring, police are issuing an alert about fake U.S. bills being passed at Niagara businesses.

On Friday, Niagara Regional Police from the St. Catharines office responded to six calls involving the

passing of counterfeit U.S. currency.

In each of the six instances, two to three black males entered businesses purchasing anywhere from one to several items and paying for them with counterfeit money. These males were seen travelling in a dark-coloured BMW sedan.

Police are asking retailers to educate their staff, who have the right to refuse suspected counterfeit currency and to contact police immediately.

There are a number of security features on American currency that are illustrated at this www.secretservice.gov/know_your_money.shtml.

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■ FRIENDLY COMPETITION

Our cops are tops at police tug of war

ALISON LANGLEY
Postmedia Network

Despite the white knuckles, gritted teeth and screams of pain, Niagara Regional Police were again crowned champions in a cross-border tug of war with their U.S. counterparts.

The spring tradition has been taking place at the centre of the Rainbow Bridge for the past 55 years.

Last Saturday afternoon, a team of 20 Niagara Regional Police officers squared off against 25 of their American counterparts from Niagara County Sheriff's Department and Niagara Falls, N.Y., Police Department.

Members of the public lined the bridge to show their support in what has become a friendly rivalry among the police forces.

"This event is a great camaraderie between the countries and it's a nice way for us to get together and that's something we don't get to do every day," said Roger Freeman, team co-captain and a lieutenant with the Niagara Falls, N.Y., police service.

"There's a great relationship between police on both sides of the border," NRP Const. Tony Munnery, captain of the Canuck team added. "All and all it was a great day."

While the mood is congenial between the officers, make no mistake, it was still a much heated competition.

The NRP team lost its first pull to the Americans, but all was not lost as it easily out muscled the U.S. team on the second and third pull.

"They did a great job coming back," said NRP Chief Jeff McGuire.

"That first pull drains the energy out of you, so be able to come back after that is a great accomplishment by the team."

The NRP has taken home the International Law Enforcement Tug of War trophy pretty well every year.

With Saturday's victory, the local team has won the event 51 times over the past 55 years.



ALISON LANGLEY/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Niagara Regional Police officers won the annual law enforcement tug of war on the Rainbow Bridge on Saturday.

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THE TRIBUNE

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■ MUNICIPAL FINANCE

10% water rate hike OK'd for Port Colborne

Postmedia Network

After dealing with watermain breaks, frozen pipes and a large deficit last year, Port Colborne city councillors have approved a water bill increase of nearly 10%.

As a result, average residential water bills will increase by about \$120 this year, about 9.86% more than they cost in 2014.

"Don't shoot the messenger, but the fact is we have some issues to address," said Peter Senese, the city's director of community and corporate services.

He said the majority of the increase is due to budget deficits incurred last year, totalling \$429,253.

Meanwhile, Senese's report also recommended an increase in infrastructure spending, bringing the total investment to \$711,688. But the funding falls short of the \$1.2-million recommended annual investment.

"We had a bad winter. We got thrown a curve ball," Ward 3 Coun. Ben Kenny complained. She said many residents were without water services for weeks due to frozen pipes, and "they are not going to be happy when they get their water bill."

"I have already had calls from people knowing we're having this meeting, saying how can you do this to us?" Kenny said.

City engineer Ron Hanson said there were about 170 frozen water services during the cold-

HOW THEY VOTED

For: Mayor John Maloney, Couns. Dave Elliott, Angie Desmarais, Ivon Doucet, Frank Danch, Ron Bodnar

Against: Couns. John Mayne and Bea Kenny
Absent: Coun. Barbara Butters

est weeks of the winter, adding older steel pipes and pipes that weren't buried deeply enough were more prone to freezing.

If those pipes are replaced, he said, future problems are unlikely to occur. All new water services being installed will also use insulated pipes to help prevent freezing.

Ward 2 Coun. Yvon Doucet was concerned the city's bulk water purchases from Niagara Region increased this year although sales decreased.

"That's almost an oxymoron. ... We're selling less and less water, and yet we're being charged more and more," he said.

If that's the case, Doucet said, he has concerns about the city's ability to estimate water sales from year to year.

The city's projections are based on average usage rates provided by the region, and are often "right on." However, Senese said, in the past two years "something strange is happening."



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LOCAL NEWS

EDUCATION

Old piano key to art project

MARYANNE FIRTH
Postmedia Network

An old piano has gone from collecting dust to being a key piece in an innovative new project.

Once stored in a random corner at Lakeshore Catholic High School, it is now being used to marry art and technology.

When art teacher Vanessa Iannantonio first laid eyes on the 1925 Heintzman and Co. upright grand, she knew it had potential.

She approached her Grade 12 portfolio class and pitched an idea — and soon they were painting nearly every square inch of the instrument with portraits, symbols and scenes representing close to 100 musicians.

"They really put their heart and soul into it," Iannantonio said proudly, while looking over the finished piece.

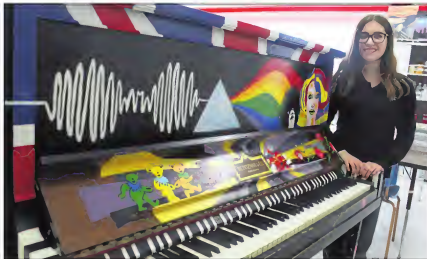
But the project didn't end there.

With the help of tech-savvy vice-principal Andrew Boon, the piano was transformed into an interactive piece of art using Aurasma.

Smartphone users can scan the piano's various symbols using the app, which then automatically brings up a video on screen that is connected to the associated musician.

"A teacher friend of mine showed me the app and I loved it," Boon said, adding he's since been working on ways to introduce it at the school.

Through the app, Lakeshore Catholic's logo, whether found on an agenda, wall or the foyer's football table, links to a video about the school. Its hallway artwork links to interviews with contributing artists, and its athlete of the week portraits link to interviews about the



MARYANNE FIRTH/
POSTMEDIA
NETWORK

Hannah Dobbie was one of 10 Lakeshore Catholic Secondary School students who transformed an old piano into an interactive work of art.

young sport stars' accomplishments.

Aurasma is also expected

to be used during a September scavenger hunt prepared to help students learn more about their surroundings at the high school, Boon said.

"It's a great way to bring life to things the students are doing."

The piano will be showcased at Niagara Catho-

lic District School Board's Young Artists Gallery, launching June 4 at the board office in Welland.

maryanne.firth@sunmedia.ca
Twitter: @mfirthtribune



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■ EDUCATION

New look Lakeshore taking shape

MARYANNE FIRTH
Postmedia Network

Lakeshore Catholic High School's new look is beginning to take shape.

The Port Colborne secondary school is in the midst of a \$5-million, 10-classroom expansion scheduled to be completed by September.

Construction of the addition, funded by the provincial government, will eliminate the need for portables at the Janet St. facility and will see the remodelling of the existing science and music rooms.

"It's exciting to see the physical layout coming together," said principal Glenn Gifford, who has been keeping a close eye on the project since it began last summer.

"The roof's on, the stairs are in. We're going to start to see windows and doors soon." Work will then move for-

ward quickly to install flooring and lockers, and to paint.

Winter weather earlier this year did cause a bit of a setback, with crews unable to continue work in February due to daily sub-freezing temperatures.

"That put us behind," Gifford said, but the contractor has been pulling long hours and has been able to get the project back on schedule.

"Otherwise, it has been a pretty smooth process." The areas under construction have been cordoned off to ensure no disruption to students, he said.

"They see all this work being done outside, but in September they'll be able to walk into their new school."

"That's the exciting part. We're excited to get in there."

maryanne.firth@postmedia.ca
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Work is underway to complete a 10-classroom, \$5-million addition to Lakeshore Catholic High School. The construction zone is shown on May 4 in Port Colborne.

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CHILDREN'S MIRACLE NETWORK



GREG FURMINGER/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Hair loss would benefit children's hospital

GREG FURMINGER
Postmedia Network

Attention Walmart shoppers: your help is needed to enable a couple of giggling young girls to lop the locks from the heads of three store employees.

Nine-year-old Alexandria Mercier of Fenwick and 10-year-old Hailey Wiley of Welland have both been receiving regular care from McMaster's Children's Hospital, and both have been invited to take part Saturday in a store fundraiser for the hospital-supporting Children's Miracle Network.

If the employees — Angela Redekop, Lisa McCrae and Lorian Briand — raise a collective \$1,750 by then, all three will have their tresses reduced to stubble by the young girls inside the store at 11 a.m.

Redekop said this money is in addition to donations that cashiers are collecting at the checkout, where customers are invited to support Walmart's preferred charity and in exchange receive a paper donor balloon to be displayed in the store.

McCrae said the CMN funding will help McMaster continue to afford state-of-the-art medical equipment.

"I've been blessed with two healthy children — but you never know," she said of why she's willing to face the scissors.

Alexandria has been receiving care for scoliosis, and some day will require a permanent rod to align her spine. She now undergoes two surgeries a year at the Hamilton hospital.

Hospital boosters and donors play a "huge" role in her care, said mom Wendy Mercier.

Hailey's mom, Tara Wiley, agreed. Her daughter has a rare form of epilepsy that is being treated by experts at McMaster.

"They're not just there for the kids, they're there for us as well," she said. People can donate towards the hair-losing campaign by calling Redekop at 905-735-5596 or by directing funds to the employees' effort at the store.

Since joining Children's Miracle Network in 1994, Walmart Canada has raised more than \$50 million for the charity that supports local hospitals.

Walmart's balloon campaign is tied in with its annual signature event, the Walmart Walk for Miracles.

greg.furminger@postmedia.ca
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LOCAL NEWS

■ PUBLIC SAFETY

Police body cams a complicated issue: privacy commissioner

GRANT LAFLECHE
Postmedia Network

Deciding to outfit police officers with body cameras is a more complicated issue than simply putting the camera on a uniform and hitting the On button, says Ontario's privacy commissioner.

"There are a number of privacy and security issues that have to be worked out," Brian Beaumish said recently, after speaking on emerging trends surrounding privacy and digital information at Brock University.

"They are not insurmountable, but they do have to be figured out."

Beaumish said while the advantage of having the cameras for transparency and accountability reasons is obvious, there are a number of details to be carefully mapped out.

"When are the cameras on? When are they not? Who has access to that informa-

tion? How is that data stored? How will it be used?" he said.

"There are also circumstances where information about members of the public, which should be private, will be recorded. So you also have to deal with that."

Niagara Regional Police considered a body camera pilot project, following in the footsteps of the Toronto police service which has launched one.

However, the police services board recently voted to put a local study on hold. The issue was shuffled to the board's technology committee for review while the NRP waits for the results of the Toronto pilot project.

Beaumish said most police services are watching the Toronto project closely before moving to put cameras on their officers.

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Gardeners can get stoked about Stokes

JENNY JELIN
for Postmedia Network

Thorold-based Stokes Seeds is responsible for the growth of plants all over Canada and the United States.

During its "busy season," the company will process close to 2,000 orders daily for shipment across North America.

But Niagarans don't have to

wait by their mailbox before they start gardening — they can check out the seed supplier's business in person, at its 296 Collier Rd. S. operation.

Stokes president Wayne Gale says the national retailer has been open for nearly a decade at its Thorold location.

Its supply room houses about 2,500 varieties of flower, food and herb seeds.

The "outlet store" retail section is a small part of the seed supplier's business — but it's something Gale encourages locals to take advantage of.

"We are the largest vegetable and flower seed supplier in Canada," he says. "The store is a tiny part of what we sell."

For more information, visit stokeseeds.com.



JENNY JELIN
SPECIAL TO
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Wayne Gale,
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IN BRIEF

Weather record set in Welland

It was indeed a hot one Saturday. Environment Canada confirmed that Welland had an all-time high of 30.4°C on Saturday.

"The last recorded high for Welland was 28°C in 2000," said Environment Canada spokesman Mitch Meredith.

While the weekend was hot and hazy, temperatures are expected to drop in

the coming days.

Gun report causes Thorold commotion

A man with what was first thought to be a rifle caused a commotion in Thorold South Saturday evening.

Niagara Regional Police responded to an address just past 6:30 p.m. Officers were directed to a residence where the male with the rifle was last seen.

Police cordoned off several streets

around the residence with the assistance of on-duty members of the emergency task unit. Police said in a news release there were concerns for the welfare of the occupant of the residence. As a result, ETU members entered the residence where they located a male who was found to be in medical distress. He was taken to hospital for treatment.

Police were able to determine that the weapon was a pellet gun and that there was no criminality involved in this matter.

Man arrested

after St. Catharines fight

A 31-year-old St. Catharines man was arrested Saturday after police were called to the area of Church and Queen Sts. for report of a fight in which one person was armed with a knife.

Niagara Regional Police said one was quickly identified by responding officers as being the instigator, who ran off as officers. After a brief foot chase, the man was arrested without further incident.

Two of the people involved in the fight, one being the arrested male, suffered minor injuries and were treated at St. Catharines hospital and later released.

James Lippert is charged with assault with a weapon. He was released on an officer-in-charge undertaking to appear in court.

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■ **POLITICS:** Hudak makes few remarks via Twitter

New Tory leader lacked full support of Niagara ridings

GREG FURMINGER
Postmedia Network

Patrick Brown is the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party's new leader — but not all ridings in Niagara threw their support behind the man.

The 36-year-old lawyer, a life-long resident of Barrie, has served as a Tory MP since 2006. He handily defeated his main rival Christine Elliott during Saturday's party election in Toronto.

But he didn't have the Niagara Falls riding in his corner.

Election results revealed that the party showed Elliott, who on May 2 made a campaign stop in Fort Erie for an event with MP Rob Nicholson, won the Niagara Falls riding with 57 of its 100 electoral points. Brown received 43.

Brown did have overwhelming support in Niagara's other three ridings, the electoral point breakdown shows.

He won 70-30 in St. Catharines, 68-32 in Welland and 64-36 in Niagara West-Glanbrook, the riding held by former party leader and sitting MPP Tim Hudak.

Hudak stepped down as leader after the Tories' election defeat last June.

He could not be reached for comment on the weekend, but was present for Saturday's vote.

Congratulations to @brownbarrie and his outreach success. Looking forward to his leadership of PCs, his energy, and expanding the party," Hudak posted on his Twitter feed.

He also tweeted: "Thank you to @chriselliottpc for running a hard fought campaign, standing for her values & for her goal to strengthen our Party & Province;

"Thanks to @jwilsonmpp for his leadership as PC Interim leader. Proud to have seen his love for the Province and the Party on display daily;

"Thanks to @MontieMcNaughton, @MacLeodLisa and @VicFedeliMPP for the energy & ideas they brought to the leadership race."



VERONICA HENRI/
POSTMEDIA
NETWORK
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West-
Glanbrook
MPP Tim
Hudak with
his child,
Maitland,
on his lap at
Saturday's
Conservative
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LOCAL NEWS

■ BIZ BUZZ

Hot spot for cold treats in Port

MARYANNE FIRTH
Postmedia Network

Sweet dreams are made of this. It was a little more than three years ago when Claudia Spiteri made the leap from stay-at-home mom to entrepreneur, opening Eataly Foods alongside husband Tony.

The cafe and deli has since thrived in its Clarence St. home, so much so that it has allowed the Port Colborne couple to pursue a more sugary venture. Just around the corner from the existing eatery, Spiteri has opened Downtown Dolce in an effort to satisfy every sweet tooth in the lakeside city.

The dessert shop, at 223 King St., stemmed from requests the mother of three kept hearing while working the counter at Eataly.

People always asked if we carry gelato," she said, while looking over the variety of flavours she's since learned to perfect on site at Dolce.

"Now we have the room to do it."

It was space restrictions that prompted Spiteri to begin searching for another location.

"The need really arose from



MARYANNE FIRTH/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Downtown Dolce owner Claudia Spiteri scoops some peach-mango gelato at the King St. shop.

my catering taking off," she said.

When the nearby prop-

erty became available about six months ago, she quickly scooped it up with plans to

put a commercial kitchen in the back and a business of some kind in the front.

During months of renovations to the building, which was once the first grocery store

in Port Colborne, the couple decided they should give people the sweet-filled shop it seemed they so desired.

Along with its gelato and soft-serve ice cream, Downtown Dolce specializes in homemade pies, cakes, cookies and cinnamon buns and features enough seating for about 40 people.

"We're trying to have things that you either don't see anywhere or see anywhere else," said baker Kelly Inclina, such as pineapple upsidedown cake, homemade milkshakes, root beer floats and coffee cakes.

"We want things that bring back memories for people, like an old-school bake shop or soda shop."

In time, the baked goods whipped up by Inclina at Downtown Dolce will also be sold at Eataly.

Staple hot items, including burgers and hot dogs, will round off the dessert shop's menu.

"When we opened Eataly, people said we filled a niche, a void in Port Colborne," Spiteri said, adding she's hopeful Downtown Dolce will do the same.

maryanne.firth@postmedia.ca

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Truck spills shingles at Peace Bridge

A load of roofing shingles spilled from a tractor-trailer Saturday night at the Peace Bridge after the

37-year-old truck driver lost control and crashed into a concrete retaining barrier.

The crash happened at about 11 p.m., Niagara Regional Police said, as the driver was heading to the U.S.

Significant damage was caused to the truck, retaining barrier, road signage and the load of shingles.

The driver was assessed at the scene by paramedics. He was not injured, police said.

Cops crack down on sidewalk cyclists

Niagara Regional Police recently cracked down on cyclists and e-bikers who use sidewalks.

On Thursday, the NRP's special enforcement unit conducted "operation sidewalk sweep" in St. Catharines' downtown core.

Uniformed officers on service-issued bicycles set out to enforce sidewalk-use laws relating to power-assisted bicycles (e-bikes) as well as cyclists.

Police say they deal with many

complaints from merchants about the safety of customers, and others who exit stores on St. Paul St.

The NRP says it isn't uncommon for a pedestrian to be struck and at times injured by a cyclist riding on the sidewalk.

Police issued 15 tickets on Thursday. Several more cyclists were instructed about responsible cycling and proper safety equipment.

The NRP reminds cyclists to use the road, and not the sidewalk, when riding. Cyclists are subject to the same rules and penalties as a motorist.

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LOCAL NEWS

■ GET DOWN AND DIRTY: Slip, slide, climb and crawl

Pelham Mudfest returns to Bissell's Hideaway



FRANKI IKEMAN/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Frank Adamson, president elect for the Rotary Club of Fonthill, climbs one of the obstacle courses for the upcoming Pelham Mudfest at Bissell's Hideaway on May 6 in Pelham.

FRANKI IKEMAN
Postmedia Network

They will slip, they will slide, they will climb and they will crawl through six kilometres of terrain at Bissell's Hideaway on May 23.

Rotary Club of Fonthill's Pelham Mudfest is back with lots of brand new obstacles and ways to challenge participants.

President-elect of the rotary club, Frank Adamson said the new obstacles in combination with the terrain at Bissell's makes it more challenging and more fun.

There are tarps to slide down hills, mud pits, ponds, walls to climb over, ropes to climb under and many more obstacles to keep people busy on course.

Mike Taylor, member of the Rotary Club of Fonthill, said the

event is substantial for the club and one of its biggest fundraisers.

Taylor has participated in the past two Mudfests. He said the course was a challenge, but that it's a great way to get in some exercise, no matter your age or fitness level.

"There were crowds of us who were just happy to crawl across the finish line," he said.

Taylor also said that it's a chance for people to face some of their fears — referencing the 10- to 15-foot wall participants will be climbing over, which will be a challenge for those afraid of heights.

"There's something in it for anybody really," said Taylor.

Adamson said people should expect "fun, food, booze, a T-shirt, entertainment," at the Saturday event. More than 200

people have already registered and organizers are aiming to raise that to 300 by race day.

The registration fee is \$75 dollars, and all proceeds go to End Polio Now and Wellspring Niagara. The Rotary club is also looking for corporate sponsors that are interested in sponsoring students so they can register for a discounted price of \$25. Because of the obstacles, there is a minimum age restriction of 15.

Adamson said the Rotary club is grateful to Bissell's for allowing use of its grounds for the event and for helping with the setup of obstacles.

For more information and to register, visit www.pelham-mudfest.ca.

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Fonthill woman wins big on RRRoll Up the Rim to Win



FRANCO BILMANN / THE STAR

Anna Havlin got the keys to her new Toyota Carry with on May 8 in Pelham. Havlin won the car on a RRRoll Up the Rim to Win cup from Tim Hortons. Havlin says she was on a flight to Mexico when she made the winning roll and was in complete shock. "I couldn't believe it when I rolled up that rim. I was actually speechless, I didn't know what to say or what to do," she said.

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■ **CHARITY:** Peter Mansbridge addresses Niagara audience

'Great storytelling always wins the day'

JOHN LAW
Postmedia Network

Peter Mansbridge knows it's not just a chair he sits in. It's a position of trust.

And when you're the news anchor for Canada's largest national broadcaster, trust is everything. Which is why it pains Mansbridge to see his peer, *NBC Nightly News* anchor Brian Williams, breach that bond with viewers.

Speaking with Postmedia Network one-on-one before last Friday's Pathstone Foundation Hope Award Gala at Club Italia in Niagara Falls, where he was the guest speaker, Mansbridge said Williams "clearly did a lot of damage to himself, and did a lot of damage to the whole industry" when he fabricated an account of being on board a military helicopter in Iraq when it was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade.

"The relationship we have — all of us — with our viewers, readers, is based on their belief that you're telling

the truth to the best of your knowledge. When it's suddenly found that you kind of spliced the stories in a way to make them more entertaining, that's not good for any of us."

Mansbridge, who turned down a co-anchor job with CBS in 1988 to replace Knowledge Now anchor of CBC's *The National*, said he found Williams engaging and "very friendly" the few times they spoke. In fact, they helped each other's shows: "He used to write to me about how much he saw in the way we did our program and the things he learned from it."

In February, Williams was suspended for six months by NBC after his aircraft claim was debunked. Since then, an internal NBC probe has turned up 11 other instances where stories were embellished.

Williams' future with the network remains unclear. It's easy for stories to gain more drama with each retell-

ing, said Mansbridge. But Williams chose the wrong topic to exaggerate.

"What got out of hand for him is that it was about one of the most sacred things we cover — those who put their lives on the line for others. And it was just so damaging."

The rumours have been felt by everyone in the industry, he added. Even his speech for Club Italia was checked and re-checked.

"My whole speech tonight is based on anecdotes," he said, "and I've been through it more than a few times to make sure that I haven't in any manner (embellished) any of these stories. Because over time, there is a tendency that they get better. You have to be careful."

"But for (Williams), it'll be interesting to see what happens. Because if there's a story most people like, and certainly Americans like, it's a comeback."

Mansbridge was speaking at the Pathstone Foundation's

biggest fundraiser of the year, expected to raise more than \$75,000. A 12-time Gemini winner, he was one of the most requested speakers for the annual event, said executive director Carrie Zeffiro. All 600 seats sold out a month ago.

"Because he's so well-respected, they were excited to come and see him," she said. "He's such a part of Canadian society."

The event honoured Dr. Ken Santhier, who has provided psychiatric services for local youth for more than 35 years. Pathstone has offered mental health services for Niagara's youth since 1998.

Born in London, England, Mansbridge remembers Niagara Falls as one of the first trips his family took when they moved to Ottawa. His journalism career began in radio in the late '60s, and he joined CBC's Winnipeg station in 1972. Three years later, he became the Saskatchewan reporter for the net-



PETER MANSBRIDGE

work's evening news show, *The National*.

Over the next 40 years, he became a Canadian journalism icon. After CTV's Lloyd Robertson retired in 2011, Mansbridge became the country's longest serving news anchor.

While the industry has suffered huge cuts and setbacks in recent years — CBC recently announced it will slash 244 jobs over the next six months — Mansbridge said

journalism still needs to abide by its biggest principle.

"At the root of it all, it's still the same thing: Great storytelling always wins the day." "We can all complain about the resource side of things — as we should, and fight for more resources from our respective owners and managers — but we also benefit from an era where we have the ability to do things we never had before."

Mansbridge will likely see a few more changes, but the finish line is in sight. He plans to retire before he's 70.

"I have no intention of doing this program with a 7 in front of my age," he said. "I turn 67 this summer, so do the math."

Which doesn't mean he'll wait until he's 69 either, he said with a smile.

"I think about it, I talk about it with my family, but beyond that we haven't made any firm decisions yet."

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